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3733

Docket: 2909 US (203-3757 PCT US)

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Earl M. Zergiebel EXAMINER: N/Y/K
SERIAL NO.: 10/560,879 GROUP: Art Unit 3733
FILED: June 14, 2004 DATED: March 28, 2007
TITLE: **MULTIPLE MEMBER INTERCONNECT FOR
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT AND ABSORBABLE SCREW
FASTENER**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

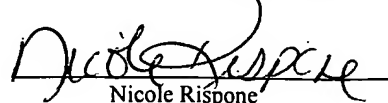
Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO/SB/08A is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the U.S. patent documents are not provided in accordance with the waiver of that requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Dated: March 28, 2007


Nicole Rispono

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114.

☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

☐ Applicant hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2).

☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))

☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. **21-0550**.

☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. **21-0550**.

☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account **21-0550**. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. **21-0550** therefor.

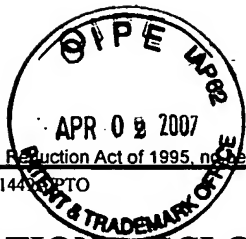
The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449 PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/560,879
Filing Date	June 14, 2004
First Named Inventor	Earl M. Zergiebel
Art Unit	3733
Examiner Name	N/Y/K
Attorney Docket Number	2909 US (203-3757 PCT US)

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS *WITHOUT REFERENCES*

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,464,144	11-7-1995	GUY ET AL.	
		6,221,023	4-24-2001	TOMOYOSHI ET AL.	
		2004/153124 A1	8-5-2004	WHITMAN	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS *WITH REFERENCES*

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant and/or Inventors	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 03/090630 A2 & A3	11-6-2003	TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP, LP		
		WO 03/020139 A2 & A3	3-13-2003	VLEUGELS ET AL.		
		EP 0 552 050 A2	7-21-1993	ETHICON INC.		

OTHER DOCUMENTS *WITH REFERENCES*

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1		T ²
		Copy of extended European Search Report from EP 06 01 1501.1 dated December 12, 2006.	

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.	